- Stocking of vaccines/sera/drugs to the extent possible.
- Setting up a special team of doctors for coordinated action. The Team should be sensitized on the impact of such weapons and treatment measures,

2. To create awareness about the disease, an issue of CD Alert, a monthly news letter of National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) covering all aspects of Anthrax including the guidelines for its prevention and control, was circulated in July 2000 to all the concerned health authorities in different states and UTs.

3. A national workshop was conducted at the NICD in September 2001 for developing surveillance mechanism for pathogens with biological warfare potential. In this workshop all the potential bio-terrorism pathogens were discussed including the Anthrax.

4. An issue of CD alert on bio-terrorism with special reference to Anthrax was circulated in October, 2001, to all the concerned health authorities in different States and UTs. The issue also covered the guidelines to be followed during biologic war or terrorist attack and effective handling of any suspicious envelope/ package, Guidelines were issued for public, police and postal departments.

5. Guidelines for packaging, transportation of clinical specimens and processing protocol in laboratory were circulated to all the medical colleges of the country.

6. A meeting on chemical and bio-terrorism was organised by the Department of Health (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare) and was participated by Secretaries of Home and Health from various States/UTs. They have taken stock of the preparedness to face any situation including availability of anti-Anthrax drugs.

7. NICD provides investigative support to outbreak of Anthrax in any part of the country, whenever asked/required to do so. A round the clock control room is functioning at NICD from 19th October, 2001, where suspected envelopes/ packages are received for laboratory tests.

Failure Rate of contraceptive methods

*293. SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "The World map, Afghanistan, Government measures our members" which appeared in the Indian Express, dated the 29th September, 2001;

(b) if so, the factual position in this regard;

(c) whether Government have conducted any study to ascertain failure rate of contraceptive methods used in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof: and

(e) the other measures to be adopted for strengthening family planning process in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All over the World, the failure rate with condom use is reported to be higher than other contraceptives. The commonly cited factors for this high failure rate are slippage and tearing of the condom. The condoms available in India meet international standards. However, they are designed in accordance with the anthropomorphic data collected from western countries inclusive of the length and width of the condoms. The problems of slippage and tearing of condom may be because either the condom is too loose or too tight. Since we do not have any anthropomorphic survey on Indian men from different regions of the country, it is proposed to carry out a study for obtaining more accurate width specification for condoms in different regions.

(c) The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has carried out various studies to ascertain failure rate of contraceptive methods being used in the country.

(d) The failure rate of different contraceptives as brought out by several studies carried out in India by Indian Council of Medical Research is 1.5% for Copper T and 0.1% for Oral Pills. Several international studies have reported that the annual failure rate for condoms is 10 to 36% when it comes to preventing pregnancy.

(e) Other measures being adopted for strengthening the family planning programme in the country are:-

(i) An integrated and comprehensive programme of Reproductive and Child Health, which includes Maternal Health, Child Health and Contraception issues.

(ii) Propagation of family planning methods which include sterilization both for male and female, spacing methods namely, IUD insertions, oral pills and condoms.

(iii) Fulfilment of unmet needs of contraceptives through provision of integrated service delivery at village level.

(iv) Information, Education and Communication Programme to create awareness about the benefits of small family.

(v) Provision of additional inputs in weaker States/Districts.

More time for education on TV

*294. DR. RAJA RAMANNA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that considerable amount of TV time is now being given to entertainment (dances etc.);

(b) whether Government propose to devote more time towards education especially on the advanced sciences to students at the PUC stage to improve teaching as teachers are usually not qualified to do this and restrict themselves to examination preparation; and

(c) if so, how and by when?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The primary duty of Prasar Bharati is to organize and conduct public Broadcasting Services to inform, educate and entertain the public. Doordarshan's endeavour is to promote telecast of educational programmes on its channels. According to Prasar Bharati, the percentage-wise time spent on programmes relating to education on the National Network, Regional Services and local Kendras is 13%, 29.9% and 50% respectively.

Ministry of Human Resource Development has launched a 24 hours Educational Channel called "Gyan Darshan", in collaboration with Prasar Bharati and Indira Gandhi National Open University. This channel covers programmes for students of primary and secondary levels.

The Department of Secondary Education and Higher Education, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Educational Technology, has set up six State Institutes of Educational Technology to produce educational programmes including programmes on Science. The Ministry of Human Resource Development has also launched 'Gyan Vani' FM radio station and 40 such Radio Stations are being set-up in a phased manner. Assistance is also provided to States/UT's, by the Department of Secondary Education and Higher Education,